

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

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APPROVED BY: D/HA:JLCARLIN

-----073314 040220Z /72

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 182734

FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 9134 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS,  
LONDON 20 JUL 77

QUOTE S E C R E T NAIROBI 9134

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, KE, ET

SUBJ: ASYLUM REQUEST: ETHIOPIAN ROYAL FAMILY

1. CONGRESSMAN BILL FRENZEL INTERESTED. CONGRESSMAN  
FRENZEL'S OFFICE WROTE LETTER TO AMBASSADOR LE MELLE, DATED  
JULY 18, WHICH WAS HAND-DELIVERED TODAY. LETTER STATES  
TELEGRAM HAS ALSO BEEN SENT, WHICH EMBASSY HAS NOT YET  
RECEIVED.

2. CASE INVOLVES 10 GRANDCHILDREN OF ASFA WOSSEN HAILE  
SELASSIE, CROWN PRINCE OF ETHIOPIA. CHILDREN FLED ETHIOPIA  
JUNE 16 AND 17 IN PRIVATE AIRCRAFT TO KENYA, AND ARE NOW  
IN HIDING. EMBASSY ADVISED OF SITUATION BY MRS. JOSETTE  
COLLINS, WHO WAS MISSIONARY IN ETHIOPIA FOR 14 YEARS AND  
WHO IS ORGANIZING FLIGHT OF CHILDREN, WHOM SHE HAS KNOWN  
PERSONALLY FOR MANY YEARS. CHILDREN ARE PRESENTLY UNDER  
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CARE OF MRS. COLLINS' HUSBAND, IN HIDING IN KENYA AT  
LOCATION NOT DISCLOSED TO EMBASSY. CHILDREN ARE IN KENYA  
WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF GOK AUTHORITIES AND HAVE NO  
IMMIGRATION STATUS HERE. MRS. COLLINS STATES THAT MOST  
OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY DIRGUE FOR SHORT PERIODS,  
AND THAT THEIR LIVES ARE IN DANGER IF CHILDREN ARE DIS-  
COVERED HERE.

3. CHILDREN ARE: SAMSON FIKRE SELASSIE, (AGE 22), ASTER FIKRE SELASSIE (21), RAHEL FIKRE SELASSIE (19), MEHRET FIKRE SELASSIE (17), YISHAKU FIKRE SELASSIE (11), AND BEKERE FIKRE SELASSIE (9). THESE ARE CHILDREN OF PRINCESS IDJIGAYEHU ASFA WOSSEN, WHO MRS. COLLINS STATES DIED IN DETENTION IN ETHIOPIA. THEIR FATHER, ABOUT WHOM NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE, IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE IN DETENTION. ADDITIONAL CHILDREN ARE: DEBRITU KASSA (11), KOKEBE KASSA (9), AND AMHA KASSA (3); THESE ARE CHILDREN OF PRINCESS SEBLE DESTA (REPORTED IN DETENTION) AND FATHER RAS KASSA (REPORTED IN DETENTION). FINAL CHILD IS MENEN MENGESHA (14), SON OF PRINCESS AIDA DESTA (REPORTED IN DETENTION) AND MENGESHE SEYOUM, HEAD OF ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION, REPORTED TO BE BASED IN ENGLAND, WHEREABOUTS KEPT SECRET FOR SECURITY REASONS.

4. POST BELIEVES PROCESSING UNDER 203(A)7 INADVISABLE IN THIS CASE FOR MANY REASONS. CHILDREN'S LIVES ARE CONSIDERED BY MRS. COLLINS TO BE IN GRAVE DANGER IN KENYA IF THEIR PRESENCE BECOMES KNOWN TO EPMG; THERE WOULD STILL BE DANGER WITH TRAVEL TO INS JURISDICTION FOR PROCESSING. CHILDREN HAVE NO TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT PRESENT TO MAKE SUCH A TRIP. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN NAIROBI HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY MRS. COLLINS, FOR SECURITY REASONS, AND REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY THROUGH KENYA IMMIGRATION, SECRET

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ON UNHCR APPLICATION, WHICH WOULD RAISE FURTHER POSSIBILITY OF LEAKAGE AND COMPROMISE OF SECURITY. IF UNHCR DOCUMENTS SECURED, CHILDREN WOULD STILL REQUIRE VISAS TO TRAVEL TO INS JURISDICTION. BOTH FRG AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES IN NAIROBI ARE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ISSUE VISAS FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND FREQUENTLY REQUIRE MUCH DOCUMENTATION.

5. IF CHILDREN'S PRESENCE IN KENYA SHOULD BECOME PUBLICLY KNOWN, THERE WOULD BE NO DANGER OF FORCIBLE REPATRIATION, BUT IT WOULD PROVE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO GOK AND WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT GOK-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. IF PUBLICITY WERE TO ARISE, IT IS LIKELY THAT DIRGUE WOULD BE EMBARRASSED AND MIGHT TAKE REPRISALS AGAINST PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE IN DETENTION. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOK SHOULD BE INFORMED OF CHILDREN'S PRESENCE ONLY ON EVE OF DEPARTURE, TO SECURE KENYA IMMIGRATION COOPERATION IN DEPARTURE FORMALITIES.

6. CHILDREN'S SUPPORT IN U.S. IS GUARANTEED BY MR. AND MRS. COLLINS, WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM CROWN PRINCE, WHO AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY KNOWS AND HAS APPROVED IN WRITING OF THEIR FLIGHT FROM ETHIOPIA AND ATTEMPT TO ENTER U.S. AS ASYLEES.

7. ON BASIS ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT RECOMMEND THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO 212(D)(5) PAROLE OF CHILDREN.

8. POST REALIZES PAROLE PROCESS REQUIRES TIME, BUT WILL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF CASE. NO CONTACT WILL BE MADE BETWEEN MRS. COLLINS AND HER HUSBAND, WHO IS TAKING CARE OF THE CHILDREN, UNTIL SOME DEFINITE COURSE OF ACTION HAS BEEN DETERMINED, AND UNTIL THEN CHILDREN AND MR. COLLINS REMAIN UNAWARE OF WHAT ASSISTANCE IS BEING PROVIDED BY EMBASSY. CHILDREN ARE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE NO CHANGE OF CLOTHING.  
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